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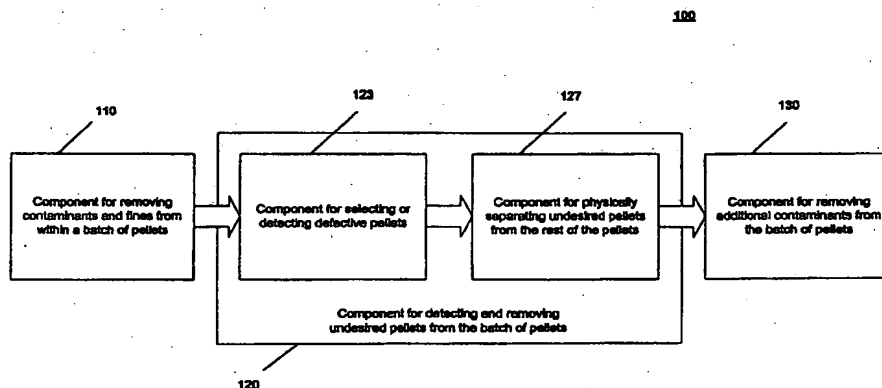
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(54) Title: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR CLEANING A BATCH OF GRANULAR MATERIAL



(57) Abstract: An apparatus (100) and method cleans a batch of pellets or granules prior to use in an extrusion process. Loose contaminants having material characteristics that are undesired for the extruded product are first removed (110) from the batch using a deduster. The deduster may also remove uncontaminated fines and fluff from the batch. Pellets that are defective or otherwise undesired for the extrusion process as well as other loose particle contaminants can then be efficiently detected and removed (120) without the risks of fines clogging the apparatus or shielding the detection process. Magnets may help remove (130) particulates of ferrous material before or after the removal (120) of defective pellets. The resulting batch of pellets helps to produce extruded materials of higher quality, such as insulation material in electrical cables.

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